



Vigilant Times

31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade

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On July 15, 2010 approximately fifty Soldiers from Headquarters, Headquarters Battery, 31st ADA returned from a year-long deployment to Southwest Asia in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Commanders' Comments



To our Soldiers and Families,

Over the past year our Soldiers, Families, and Civilians have made tremendous accomplishments and sacrifices. Over the past 45 days I have been talking to our soldiers and families about their experiences in the Brigade and they have been very positive. Two areas that were identified as needing more attention were predictability and a long term plan. I have put together a team to address these concerns and we have a way ahead. We have put together a vision to for the future of the 31st ADA BDE and how we plan to get there. My vision for the 31st ADA BDE is success in all that we do. We cannot account for every possible situation, but the relationship we build as a team will help us effectively confront and overcome anything placed in front us. What do we do when we are faced with a new situation or are suddenly placed in a new organization?

When analyzing any new situation, we need to ask these questions: 1)Are we doing the right things? 2)Are we doing things the right way? 3)What are we missing? 4)Where are the best practices?

It is extremely important that we identify and fix any issues that we have. It is equally important that we identify things that we are doing well and continue to provide that same level of service to our Soldiers and their Families. This will be a pointless endeavor if we correct current deficiencies while letting current strengths weaken. Further, we need to identify the best practices of others in the areas in which we need extra attention. We need to take a good look at what others do and see if it would work for us. We must ensure that we identify and reward Soldiers who develop and implement best practices within the BDE.

One of our greatest strengths as an Army is our dedication to accomplishing the mission. It's important that everyone asks our four fundamental questions in both new situations as well as periodically to improve the efficiency of existing processes.

Our mission is to Take Care of Soldiers and their Families and prepare Soldiers and Units for Combat. We will do this by: 1) Attracting and keeping the best Soldiers in the Army 2) Staying connected with our great community and partner Commands 3) Maintaining the Warrior Ethos 4) Communicating Internally and Externally and 5) Living the Army Values

Thanks for all of your support and thank you for your service.

COL Daniel Garcia

Greetings! We are now in Fiscal year 2011 and Fiscal year 2010 was definitely a busy year. I would personally like to thank every Soldier and family member for the support that allows this great Brigade to function on a daily basis. This unit could not accomplish the myriad of tasks and achievements without you.

I ask that you keep everyone in your prayers. The Brigade has Soldiers deployed in five different countries. The Soldiers that deployed with the BDE Headquarters have returned from leave and completed all reintegration training. My sincere thanks to the Soldiers, family members and Lawton community partners who made this welcome exceptional.

As the Brigade continues to function, several of our great Noncommissioned Officers have retired last month. SFC Jefferson (the Brigade EOA) and SFC Donald, (Brigade S-1 NCOIC) will be missed by all. These Noncommissioned Officers helped, aided and assisted me during my arrival to the Brigade. In the near future the Brigade should be well represented as several Department of the Army centralized promotion boards will take place. I look forward to the advancement of some of our great Noncommissioned Officers.

Lastly, my door and phone line are always open. I usually stray away from quotes, however I will interject the quote of the great Lou Gehrig who stated during his retirement speech, "I feel like the luckiest man on the face of the earth." I am elated and blessed at the opportunity to develop, train and possibly lead Soldiers into combat and take care of all families at the same time. Again, I extend an invitation for anyone to visit the unit and tour our great complex. Ready and Vigilant!



CSM Kenneth Joseph

31st ADA: COL Garcia takes charge



At a change of command ceremony Wednesday, July 28, 2010, COL. Daniel Garcia, incoming 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade commander, along with BG David L. Mann, 32nd U.S. Army Air and Missile Defense Command commanding general, render salutes to the division, brigade and national colors during the playing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" on the Old Post Quadrangle here at Fort Sill, Okla.



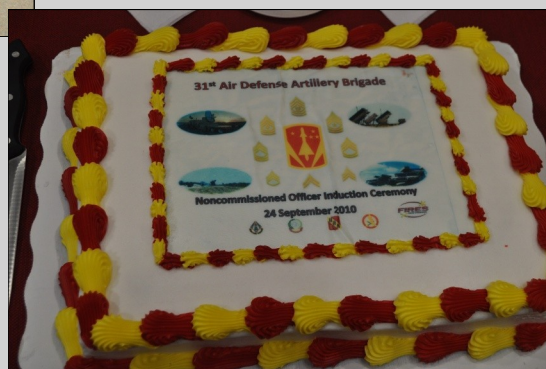
The Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is a focused, cost-efficient and effective way for federal employees to give back to their fellow man by making a donation to at least one of more than 3,000 charities. Each charity has met strict eligibility requirements, and by combining fundraising efforts into one campaign, the charities are able to reduce overhead and put a larger percentage of the donation toward its cause. The Fort Sill-Lawton campaign goal is to raise \$310,000 in 6 weeks, ending on Nov. 26. For more information on how you can give, please contact 2LT Richard Crouch at 442-0318.



NCO INDUCTION CEREMONY



In late September, the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade gathered in celebration of the newly promoted joining the ranks of a professional non-commissioned officer corps. The NCO induction ceremony emphasizes and builds on the pride shared by such an elite organization. CSM Paul Kogut, 4-3 ADA, was the guest speaker welcoming the newest NCOs into the corps.



Buffalo Soldier statue unveiled

By Jeff Crawley

Lawton and Army officials unveiled a Buffalo Soldier statue Sept. 21, which paid tribute to black Soldiers who served in the frontier Army in its westward exploration in the late 1800s.

The 9-foot, 800-pound bronze statue "Answering the Call" depicts a Buffalo Soldier with rifle in hand, ready to saddle up for a mission. It stands in the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Plaza at 2nd Street and Gore Boulevard.

"This is a great celebration," said Arthur Harness, 89, a Buffalo Soldier who served with the 9th Cavalry Regiment at Fort Riley, Kan., from 1940-43. "I never thought when I was riding those old bucking horses that we'd have a day like this."

Harness, of Plano, Texas, and Roosevelt Coleman, of Lawton, were two former Buffalo Soldiers at the dedication.

Brig. Gen. Jesse Cross, U.S. Army Quartermaster School commandant at Fort Lee, Va., was the keynote speaker.

"I certainly wouldn't be here today wearing this uniform and this rank if it were not for the Buffalo Soldiers who blazed the trail," said Cross, who grew up near the site of the statue. "The Buffalo Soldiers answered the call to service with a nation at war and in doing so, left an inspiring legacy for all generations to emulate."

The idea of a Buffalo Soldier monument began about five years ago, said Dr. Gary Gardner, the sculptor. Officials with the Lawton-Fort Sill Buffalo Soldiers Association 9th and 10th (Horse) Cavalry, city and state officials, Fort Sill, local businesses, and private individuals and families all worked together to create the plaza.

The story of the Buffalo Soldier is about extreme courage and patriotism, said Cross. "Since 1641, there has never been a time in this country when blacks were unwilling to serve and sacrifice for America," said Cross, quoting retired Gen. Colin Powell former secretary of state, from 1990.

Buffalo Soldiers comprised of former slaves, freemen and black Civil War Soldiers were the first to serve in peacetime after the war, Cross said.

The survival of the Buffalo Soldier had a great deal to do with the kind of people they were.

"A people who were rich in character, courage, discipline and integrity," he said.

Despite experiencing arduous duty and prejudice, the Buffalo Soldiers had the lowest desertion and courts-martial rates of any unit in the Army, Cross said.

The Buffalo Soldiers' success led to other firsts for black servicemembers, Cross said. This included Powell, former chairman, joint chiefs of staff; the Tuskegee Airmen; the 761st "Black Panthers", the first black tank battalion; the 555th Parachute Infantry Battalion, the first black parachute unit; and the Navy Golden 13, black Naval officers.

Lawton businessman Dan Mullins was recognized for being instrumental in creating the Buffalo Soldiers Heritage Plaza.

"There are so many people to thank in our community for this day," Mullins said. Among those he thanked were his co-op partner the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade; and retired Col. Albert Johnson Jr., who served as an adviser to the project.

"As we come together today as we honor the heritage, the history of the Buffalo Soldiers, we all have ownership in this plaza that sits in a prominent part of our town because we all helped and for that I humbly thank you," Mullins said.



Photo by SPC Tara L. Cook

31st ADA: Building Stronger Bonds

Photos and story by 2LT Richard Crouch

On Sep. 8, 2010, a delegation of officers and senior NCOs from 31st ADA BDE traveled to the Dallas-Ft. Worth area to conduct business in a distraction-free setting that could not be created in the Lawton-Ft. Sill area.

This group of leaders met to develop a strategic vision for how to accomplish the commander's mission: Prepare Soldiers and units for combat and take care of Soldiers and their families.

The meetings began with a presentation by Col. William Rabena, Commandant of the Ft. Hood Resiliency Campus. The Ft. Hood campus is the best in the Army, and Col. Rabena shared how the campus became what it is today. The leaders came away with many ideas of how to improve what is available at Ft. Sill and how to take advantage of the services already available.

Following the presentation, the leaders were divided into four groups. Each group was assigned a line of effort – either force well being, warfighting, leadership development or community outreach – and told to determine the tasks necessary to accomplish that line of effort. After two days of brainstorming, discussing, consolidating and refining, a strategic vision emerged that has been incor-

porated into the brigade's campaign plan. It is now the leaders' responsibility to communicate the plan to the rest of the brigade.

When the business was complete, several of the leaders were joined by their families for the Strong Bonds Retreat, hosted by Chaplain Scheib at the same hotel. Many other Soldiers and their families from the brigade also came down for a relaxing weekend of quality family time. Several of the families participating had recently been reunited after deployment, so this was a good opportunity for them to reconnect and strengthen bonds that may have been weakened by separation.

Taking care of Soldiers and their Families is very important to the commander. Force well being is the foundation from which warfighting, leadership development and community outreach grow. More family retreats are being planned. Be sure to take advantage of these opportunities to relax, have fun and connect as a family.



4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery

By SPC Tara L. Cook

The final quarter of fiscal year 2010 brought many changes to the 4th Battalion, 3rd Air Defense Artillery at Fort Sill, Okla.

Changes would begin with the assumption of command ceremonies for LTC Robert Fruehwald and CSM Paul Kogut both held in late July. Following the assumption of command ceremonies, the official activation of 4-3 ADA would take place. Many dignitaries would gather for the reactivation of one of the oldest units in Army history to include 32nd AAMDC Commanding General, BG Robert Mann.

In the following months, 4-3 ADA would welcome numerous battery commanders to its ranks to include CPT. Hayes, A Battery; CPT. Tripp, B Battery; CPT. Stampley, C Battery, and CPT. Scarbrough, E Battery.



Photos by SPC Tara L. Cook and SPC John McCartney

3-2 ADA: Recognition of Wartime Service



Sgt. 1st Class Tammie D. Clayton, of 3-2 ADA at Task Force Lethal, proudly displays the 31st Air Defense Artillery Brigade's unit patch on her shoulder sleeve at the patching ceremony on August 20, 2010 at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.

Photos and story by PV2 Audrey N. Hamilton

Soldiers of the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery Regiment received their combat patch in a patching ceremony at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia on August 20, 2010.

Authorization of wearing the combat patch or shoulder sleeve insignia that indicates former wartime service began in the Army during World War II. Army Regulation 670-1, Wear and Appearance of Army Uniforms and Insignia, gives prerequisites and guidelines for receipt and approval of the combat patch. It explains that in order for a Soldier to receive the combat patch, they must be assigned to a unit serving in a declared hostile environment and receive the approval of the Army Chief of Staff.

3-2 ADA completed a Temporary Change of Station to the Korean Theatre of Operations in the spring of 2008, and in May 2009, 3-2 redeployed to Fort Bliss, Texas before executing a Permanent Change of Station to Fort Sill, Oklahoma a few months later.

Seven months after re-deployment, the Lethal Strike Battalion assumed the Contingency Expeditionary Force - III posture on December 15, 2009. In January 2010, the Battalion began undergoing vigorous training and certifications before deploying in June 2010 to an undisclosed location in the CENTCOM Area of Responsibility in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

After the Soldiers of Task Force Lethal received their combat patch, the Battalion Commander, LTC Shana E. Peck, and the Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Ronald C. Cowan, then presented twelve Airmen from the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing with honorary patches.

In days following the patching ceremony for the 3rd Battalion, 2nd Air Defense Artillery, some of the twelve Airmen from the 380th Air Expeditionary Wing that were given an honorary 31st Brigade deployment patch were seen proudly displaying it on their shoulder sleeve.



3-2 ADA Soldiers from Task Force Lethal and audience wait patiently for the moment they receive their patch during a ceremony on August 20, 2010 at an undisclosed location in Southwest Asia.



5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery

In Remembrance...

SGT BRANDON E. MAGGART

July 22, 1986 – August 22, 2010

SGT Maggart was born on July 22, 1986 in Liberty, Missouri. He graduated from Kirksville High School in 2006. SGT Maggart enlisted into the Army in Kirksville, MO in June 2006. He attended Basic Combat Training at Fort Jackson, South Carolina and attended Advanced Military Training at Fort Bliss, Texas, where he was the Distinguished Honor Graduate for his Avenger Crewmember class. SGT Maggart's first duty station was Fort Lewis, WA in October 2006 assigned to Alpha Battery, 5th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery. He attended all pre-deployment training during the Mission Rehearsal Exercise and Phalanx Weapon System (LPWS) Live Fire Exercise at Fort Bliss, Texas for the unit's non-standard Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) mission. He deployed with the unit in March 2007 to Joint Base Balad, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom V-VI. During this deployment, SGT Maggart served as an Engagement Operations Cell (EOC) Operator for a period of 15 months. Upon returning from Iraq, SGT Maggart won the Battalion Soldier of the Quarter Board, 1st QTR, FY09. He attended Warrior Leader Course and was promoted to an Avenger Team Chief in Alpha Battery under the unit's assigned Avenger MTOE. SGT Maggart led his team through several Battery Field Training Exercises as well as the Battalion Avenger Table VIII and X Certification and Live Fire at Yakima Training Center in April 2009. In September 2009, 5-5 ADA Battalion reorganized in preparation for deployment with a FORSCOM directed Counter-Rocket, Artillery and Mortar (C-RAM) mission in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom X. SGT Maggart deployed and served as a Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC) Section Sergeant with Alpha Battery in COB Basrah, Iraq from January 2010-Present. SGT Maggart's awards consists of the Bronze Star Medal (Posthumous), the Purple Heart (Posthumous/Pending), the Army Commendation Medal (1OLC), the Army Achievement Medal (1OLC), the Army Good Conduct Medal, the National Defense Service Ribbon, the Iraqi Campaign Medal (2 Campaign Stars), the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Noncommissioned Officer Professional Development Ribbon, the Army Service Ribbon, the Overseas Ribbon, and the Combat Action Badge (Posthumous). SGT Maggart is survived by his wife Teresa and his son Blake, age 3. His short term goals included earning a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice, and submitting his 140A Warrant Officer Candidate Packet upon redeployment.



Upcoming Events

- There will be a Motorcycle Mentor Ride on Friday, October 22; contact your supervisor or Mr. Monroe for more details
- Halloween falls on a Sunday this year: check local listings for Trick-or-Treat times and most local churches will provide a Trunk-or-Treat, an alternative
- Veterans Day is Thursday, November 11th and Friday, November 12th will be a training holiday providing a Thursday through Sunday 4-day weekend; be safe!
- Thanksgiving Day is Thursday, November 25th and Friday, November 26th will be a training holiday providing a Thursday through Sunday 4-day weekend, so, enjoy the Black Friday madness!
- The 31st ADA St. Barbara's Day Ball will be held Friday, December 17th; contact your supervisor for more details
- Christmas Eve is Friday, December 24th; Christmas Day is Saturday the 25th and Monday, December 27th will be a training holiday providing a Friday through Monday 4-day weekend
- HHB 31st ADA has a new FRG Representative: Bonnie Jones and she can be reached at 580-280-0570 or by email: yvonne.marie.jones@conus.army.mil



**Congratulations to the 31st ADA swimmers,
CPT Pedroso and SPC Taylor,
for their victory in the recent
installation-wide swim meet!!**

